

## FROM THE DESK OF

*Monty Henderson  
President/COO*

Litter Management has become a major issue in the Poultry industry. There has been a lot of scientific work done in the past few years that shows high phosphorus levels in rivers, streams and lakes causes an increase in algae growth which can adversely affect water quality and recreational use. Chicken litter which is a great source of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash has been used for many years to fertilize pastures and hay meadows. The problem comes when more litter is used than the crops need and phosphorus levels become too high in the soil. During major rain events some of the phosphorus

becomes soluble and washes off into the streams and lakes. Most states that are major poultry producers have passed regulations, or are in the process of writing them that regulates the amount of phosphorus that can be applied to the soil. This will be determined by soil testing that determines current level, then annual soil tests to determine how much litter, if any can be applied to each field. This is going to require a percentage of the litter produced in concentrated areas to be redistributed to areas that are phosphorus deficient, which means hauling litter to farmland in eastern Arkansas, Northern Missouri or eastern Kansas. It could also mean pro-

cessing litter into commercial fertilizer that can be hauled efficiently, or burning litter to heat poultry houses, or to generate steam or electricity. It may mean figuring out a way to get the excess litter back to the Midwest to fertilize corn since that is where it came from in the first place. Whatever the solution, or combination of solutions, the excess litter must be redistributed out of the concentrated poultry areas. We at George's are currently looking for solutions to this problem and will work closely with our growers in solving this problem. It is a problem that must be solved very soon.

# GEORGE'S

INC.

## COOP SCOOP

### Charles and Karen Fansler

Located on 200 acres in the heart of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley is Mill Creek Farm, a breeder hen farm owned and operated by Charlie and Karen Fansler. The farm is located four miles west of Mt. Jackson. Charlie and Karen have been married for 26 years and have two children, Tabitha and C.B., who help on the farm when they can. The Fansler's farm has the honor of being a Virginia Century Farm. This distinction was given since the farm has been in Charlie's family for over 100 years. The Fanslers built their first hen house in May 1998. In April 2001, they added their second house, with the third house opening for operation in May 2002. Approximately 24,000 hens are housed on the farm. Charlie and Karen also raise 50 brood cows and grow corn, alfalfa, and hay. In addition, they raise a few hogs each year to show at the local county fair and the Virginia State Fair - winning awards at each show. Charlie

and Karen chose to grow breeder hens because the income seemed more stable and not as risky when compared to turkeys or broilers. When asked why they chose poultry over other livestock for their farm operation, Charlie smiled and said, "Chickens can't run over me like cows." In addition to the farm operation, Charlie and Karen are both bus drivers for Shenandoah County Public Schools and are site managers for two trash compactor sites for the county landfill. Charlie is also a lifetime member of the Mt. Jackson Volunteer Fire Department. The Fanslers both agree that the hen operation gives them the chance to stay home and work on the farm - something they both enjoy! However, Karen states, "The part that took the most getting used to was gathering eggs seven day a week." In his spare time, Charlie enjoys hunting and watching his son's high school sporting events. Karen's hobbies include horseback



*By Brad Smith*

riding, landscaping, and traveling. The Fansler's farm performance consistently ranks in the top third of Virginia's breeder hen flocks. When asked what contributes to this success, Charlie states, "You get out of it what you put into it" - a motto we could all live by! George's appreciates the Fansler's hard work and dedication as poultry growers.

### Roger and Russell Pitts

With the economic growth that is taking place in Northwest Arkansas there are fewer and fewer people that make their living solely from the farm. There are even fewer farms that have been in continuous production under the ownership of one family for several generations. Roger and Russell Pitts are making a living and raising the fifth generation of the Pitts family on their farm North of Lincoln, Arkansas. Sugar Hill Ranch Inc. consists of over 800 acres, maintains a large cow-calf operation, raises Bermuda grass hay and has 9 chicken houses. Roger's grandfather, Sterling Chamber Pitts, who graduated from Auburn University and had a career as a Civil Engineer, bought the original 340 acre farm in 1914. Roger's father Sterling Hardy Pitts was 19 years old when they moved into the three story house that Russell has restored and is now living in. When Sterling and his two brothers took the farm over in 1936. They ran registered Polled Hereford cattle and had 50 acres of orchards. Over the years they kept purchasing land and planting apples and a few peach trees until they had one of the largest orchards in Arkansas at over 500 acres in the early 50's. Roger had always wanted to stay on the farm, but with three families already making a living on the farm he decided to get a college education and work off the farm. In 1958,

he married Mary Alice Milner. He received his Associates degree from Arkansas Tech and then his Bachelors degree from the U of A in Agriculture Education in 1961. He took a job in Hot Springs at Lakeside High School teaching Vo-Ag. In 1962, he took a job with Farm Bureau in Hope, Arkansas selling insurance. In 1964, he and his father had the opportunity to buy out one of the brothers, so Roger came back to the farm to fulfill his dream. In 1967, they bought out the second brother, which gave them sole ownership of the entire farm. They built their first two chicken houses that same year, and followed with another in 1970. Rogers's father stay involved with the farm until his death in 1988. Roger and Mary Alice have three married children; Russell, Sarah Simmons and Alicia Ezell. Russell and his wife Guaftha have three boys, Seth, Connor, and Alec. Guaftha teaches school at Lincoln. Sarah and her husband Terry have 4 children, Kim, Shane, Dustin, and Dalton. Sarah teaches school at Lincoln. Alicia and her husband Tracy have 2 boys Trevor, and Tanner. Alicia teaches school in Atlanta, Georgia. Russell made the decision at an early age to stay on the farm to make a living. While he was attending college they added a fourth chicken house in 1986 to help increase income. He graduated from the U of A with a



*By Kandall Pendergraph*

degree in Agriculture Business in 1988. In 1989, the two original houses fell from a snow storm, so they built them back and added another house to make a total of 5. In 1999, they purchased an adjoining farm and added 4 tunnel houses. In 2004, they replaced the house they built in 1970 with a new tunnel house. The Pitts believe by continuing to update their facilities they will remain competitive and prepare the farm to be passed on to the next generation. We at George's, Inc. are glad to be a part of their long range plans and appreciate their dedication and hard work.

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EXHIBIT

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